

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 202071
ORIGIN SNM-05

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TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - PARAQUAT ADDITIVES

REF: STATE 196281

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEW THE
FOLLOWING MEMO:
QUOTE

A PRELIMINARY REVIEW HAS BEEN MADE OF THE POSSIBLE HEALTH
HAZARDS OF THE 13 SUBSTANCES SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AS MARKERS TO BE ADDED TO HERBICIDES USED
IN THE MEXICAN MARIHUANA ERADICATION PROGRAM.

SINCE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE MARKERS WILL BE USED
ARE UNKNOWN, AND THE NATURE AND TOXIC EFFECTS OF ANY POS-
SIBLE PYROLYSIS PRODUCTS ARE ALSO UNKNOWN, NO DEFINITIVE
EVALUATIONS OF THE POSSIBLE TOXIC EFFECTS OF THE COMPOUNDS
CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME.

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PAGE 02 STATE 202071

ON THE BASIS OF THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION, AND FOR THE PUR-
POSES OF FIELD TESTS, THE FOLLOWING NINE SUBSTANCES CAN BE
CONSIDERED FOR THE TEST DEMONSTRATION PHASE AS MARKERS
(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): CAPROIC ACID; C8 MERCAPTAN;
C18 MERCAPTAN; ISOVALERIC ACID; MERCAPTO BUTYRIC ACID;
MERCAPTO PROPIONIC ACID; RHODAMINE-B; TERT. C12 MERCAPTAN;

VALERIC ACID.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE QUANTITIES USED ARE IMPORTANT. FOLLOWING THE FIELD TESTS, THE COMPOUNDS SELECTED FROM THE ABOVE GROUP SHOULD BE FURTHER EVALUATED FOR TOXICITY, THROUGH SMOKING TESTS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE METHODS.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DEF (TRIBUTYL PHOSPHOROTRITHIOITE), FOLEX (TRIBUTYL PHOSPHOROTRITHIOATE) AND DMSO (DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE) NOT BE TESTED AS MARKERS, CONSIDERING THE HEALTH RELATED DATA AVAILABLE ON THEM. BOTH FOLEX AND DEF CAUSED DELAYED NEUROTOXICITY IN THE CHICKEN AT RELATIVELY HIGH DOSES AND INHIBIT CHOLINESTERASE. DMSO HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BE TERATOGENIC IN THE CHICKEN, THE MOUSE AND THE RAT, BUT NO REPORT OF SUCH AN EFFECT IN HUMANS HAS BEEN FOUND. THE ABILITY OF DMSO TO CARRY OTHER CHEMICALS (SUCH AS THE HERBICIDE BEING USED) THROUGH MEMBRANES COULD CONSTITUTE AN ADDITIONAL HEALTH HAZARD.

NO JUDGMENT CAN BE MADE ON D-LIMONENE-DI-MERCAPTAN BECAUSE NO INFORMATION ON ITS TOXICITY WAS AVAILABLE FOR EVALUATION.

IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED THAT THESE EVALUATIONS ARE PRELIMINARY, AND ARE BASED ON AVAILABLE DATA ON TOXICITY. IF, AFTER THE FIELD TESTS, ONE OR MORE OF THESE SUBSTANCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 202071

APPEAR TO BE EFFICACIOUS AS OLFACTORY OR VISUAL MARKERS OF SPRAYED MARIHUANA, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT FURTHER TESTS WILL BE MADE. SUCH TESTS WILL BE PERFORMED TO DETERMINE THE RESIDUES OF THE MARKERS AND HERBICIDE IN THE HARVESTED MARIHUANA, AND TO IDENTIFY THE BURN PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY SMOKING SUCH MARIHUANA IN CIGARETTES. SINCE THE PRODUCTS OF SMOKING SUCH MARIHUANA INVOLVE INTERACTIONS OF A VARIETY OF SUBSTANCES (MARIHUANA, HERBICIDE AND MARKER) SUCH SMOKING TESTS ARE ESSENTIAL NEXT STEPS IN ASSESSING THE HEALTH HAZARDS OF ANY MARKERS USED.
END QUOTE

2. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PASS THIS INFORMATION TO THE GOM AND ADVISE US IF THEY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL DATA WHICH WE WILL SEEK FROM HEW. VANCE

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